

25. [Added] A business method for determining and signaling content quality of preexisting data provided between a source and a receiver of the preexisting data content, the preexisting data having at least one record, the at least one record having at least one data field, the business method comprising the following steps:

assessing the quality of the content of the preexisting data using one or more predefined sets of criteria corresponding to a business;

assigning a grade indicative of the quality of the content of the preexisting data for at least one of the one or more predefined sets of criteria; and,

marking the preexisting data with the assigned grade without changing the content of the preexisting data;

wherein the receiver dynamically accesses the marked grade of the data to determine suitability for subsequent use of the preexisting data without having to access the preexisting data.

26. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the step of linking further comprises associating a portion of a file name to the grade.

27. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 26 wherein the filename corresponds to a file containing the preexisting data.

28. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 further comprising associating a grade file with the grade.

29. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the quality corresponds to a particular data field of the at least one data field.

30. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the quality corresponds to a particular record of the at least one record.

31. [Added]. The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein a particular quality corresponds to a particular record of the at least one record.

32. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein a particular quality corresponds to a particular field of the at least one particular field.

33. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the criteria for determining the quality is a predefined function.

34. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the criteria for determining the quality uses access to a database.

35. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the criteria for determining the quality is an externally defined function.

36. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the criteria for determining the quality uses access to an independent database.

37. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the grade is numeric.

38. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the grade is a color.

39. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the grade is a Boolean.

40. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the business is sales.

41. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the grade corresponds to merchandise quality.

42. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the data corresponds to direct marketing data.

43. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the data corresponds to mailing addresses.

44. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the step of linking further comprises associating the grade to a data set.

45. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the criteria for determining the quality is customized by the business.

46. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 further comprising assigning a rating as a function of the grade.

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47. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 25 wherein the data corresponds to documentation.

48. [Added] The business method as recited in claim 473 wherein the grade corresponds to the version of the documentation.
